

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 297420 TOSEC 320005

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 9718 ACTION SECSTATE 7 DEC 76

QUOTE S E C R E T GENEVA 9718

NODIS

FOR AMB SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: US SUPPORT FOR MUGABE

1. DURING THE COURSE OF MY MEETING WITH MARK PARTRIDGE, THE RHODESIAN MINISTER, PARTRIDGE TOLD ME THAT IAN BLACK, A SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALIST WITH THE JOHANNESBURG "CITIZEN", CALLED ON HIM UESTERDAY AND HANDED HIM A COPY OF A LETTER DATED MAY 27, 1976 FROM A NEW YORK LAWYER NAMED RICHARD A. ZEIF. THE LETTER IMPLIES ZEIF'S FIRM HAS OBTAINED AMERICAN SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR MUGABE AND ZANU. THE TEXT OF THE LETTER IS AS FOLLOWS.

BEGIN TEXT:

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DEAR JOE:

I AM WRITING THIS LONG OVERDUE REPORT TO YOU TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE ON ALL OF OUR EFFORTS.

I RECOGNIZE THAT AL HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH YOU AND THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS OTHERS IN AFRICA, IN YOUR BEHALF. I WANTED TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY, WHILE AS IS WITH ME IN THE OFFICE AT THE TIME I AM DICTATING THIS, TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE AND TO SHARE SOME THOUGHTS AS TO CURRENT AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND ACTIVITIES.

I SHARE WITH YOU YOUR SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED IN YOUR LETTER TO AL OF DECEMBER 2, 1975, IN WHICH YOU RECOGNIZE THAT ZIMBABWE DOES NOT HAVE THE "FINANCIAL RESOURCES WITH WHICH TO COMPENSATE YOUR PROFESSIONAL EFFORTS AND WELL-DESERVED WILLINGNESS TO HELP". PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS DOES NOT DETER US IN ANY MANNER FROM CONTINUING OUR PROFESSIONAL WORK IN YOUR BEHALF. WE SHARE WITH YOU THE ABSOLUTE FEELING THAT ALL OF OUR EFFORTS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. WE LOOK FORWARD TO REPRESENTING A FREE ZIMBABWE. WE ARE COMMITTED TO YOU AND YOUR CAUSE, AND YOUR FREINDSHIP, AND THE PRINCIPLES OF MAJORITY RULE. WE CAN MAKE ARRANGEMENTS ABOUT COMPENSATION LATER.

I AM ENCLOSING A COPY OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE BAR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND IMPORTANT BAR ASSOCIATION IN THE COUNTRY; A) WILL SPEAK TO THEM AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO EXPLAIN YOUR POSITION.

ON MAY 5, 1976 I HAD A MOST SUCCESSFUL MEETING IN NEW YORK AT THE EXPLORERS CLUB, WHERE I AM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. AT THAT MEETING, WE HONORED THE AMBASSADORS FROM THE OAU. THE MEETING WAS HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR NATIONAL CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE WHICH NUMBERS AS ITS MEMBERS MANY IMPORTANT CORPORATE PERSONALITIES, MANY OF WHOM COULD DO BUEINESS IN AFRICA. ALONG THIS LINE, I HAVE MAINTAINED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH MY FRIENDS IN BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP THEM ADVISED, AS WELL AS TO AROUSE THEIR SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING AS TO THE ZIMBABWE POSITION, WHICH YOU REPRESENT, AND WHICH WE TELL THEM, AND WE BELIEVE, WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. THIS IS IN LINE WITH OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE POSITION OF ZANU AND THE KARANGAS IN THE TOTAL PICTURE.

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FOR MANY MONTHS, BOTH AL AND I, IN OUR OFFICIAL AND SOCIAL WORK AND TRAVELS IN AND AROUND NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLEAD YOUR CAUSE. IA AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT SENATOR CLARK, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIRMAN OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS, HAS BEEN DEPT ABREAST OF YOUR POSITION. OUR CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE OAU OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS HAS BORNE FRUIT IN THIS NEW

RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AFRICA, WHICH IS EVIDENT IN ALL OF THE LATEST ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE BREAK-THROUGH HAS COME WITH OUR OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THE REALITIES OF THE ZIMBABWE POWER STRUGGLE TO THE PEOPLE IN POWER IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THEY ARE NOW CONVINCED THAT THERE CAN BE NO EFFECTIVE SOLUTION WITHOUT ZANU AND, PARTICULARLY, WITHOUT THE KARANGA.

WE HOPE AND EXPECT THAT THIS WILL LEAD TO HAVING BLAUSTEIN TRAVEL TO VISIT YOU IN ZAMBIA FOR, AS WE HAVE EXPLAINED, KISSINGER'S PROPOSALS CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT PARTICIPATION AND YOUR LEADERSHIP. THE KIND OF ZIMBABWE DESIRED BY THE U.S. - MAJORITY RULE BROUGHT ABOUT PEACEFULLY TO MAINTAIN A NATION WITH A SOLID ECONOMIC BASE - NECESSITATES YOUR LEADERSHIP.

WITH THIS IN MIND, AL HAS BEEN MOST ACTIVE WITH HIS OLD FRIEND, CLYDE FERGUSON. THEIR RELATIONSHIP GOES BACK MORE THEN 20 YEARS, WHEN THEY CO-AUTHORED THE FIRST BOOK ON DESEGREGATION, AND THE FIRST BOOK CO-AUTHORED ON THI SUBJECT BY A BLACK MAND AND A WHITE MAN. FERGUSON BECAME AMBASSADOR TO UGANDA, AND FROM THERE, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICA. LATER HE SERVED AS ONE OF THE AMBASSADORS TO THE UNITED NATIONS. HE IS RETIRED FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND IS CURRENTLY A LAW PROFESSOR AT HARVARD. AL, WORKING WITH AMBASSADOR FERGUSON, HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A TOP-LEVEL MEETING IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE OBJECT IS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TRIP TO SEE YOU. BLAUSTEIN WOULD BE GOING, OF COURSE, AS YOUR LAWYER. IF ALL GOES WELL, HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR FERGUSON. THEY ARE ALSO MEETING TO SEE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT TAKES CONCRETE STEPS, BOTH DIPLOMATICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY, TO BRING ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF YOUR EFFORTS.

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SEVERAL CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED. AS, AS A LEADING CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER, HAS MADE TO THEM SOME IN-NOVATING AND INTERESTING SUGGESTIONS WHICH COULD ONLY ADD TO A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER AND HOPEFULLY MAINTAIN STABILITY IN THE AREA. THESE SUGGESIONS AND DISCUSSIONS ARE BEST DEVELOPED IN IN-PERSON MEETINGS. THEIR EFFORTS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL BE DIRECTED TO CONCRETE PROGRAMS TO ASSIST YOU AND TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR MEETING WITH YOU IN AFRICA.

PLEASE REST ASSURED OF OUR DEVOTION AND EFFORTS IN YOUR BEHALF. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS, GUIDANCE OR INFOR-MATION THAT YOU WOULD WISH TO PASS ON TO US IN ORDER THAT WE BE MORE PRODUCTIVE IN YOUR BEHALF.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT TIME THAT WE GET TOGETHER.

CORDIALLY,
RICHARD A. ZEIF
END TEXT.

2. BLACK TOLD PARTRIDGE THAT HE HAD RECEIVED THIS LETTER FROM ONE OF THE NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS BUT REFUSED TO IDENTIFY WHICH DELEGATION GAVE IT TO HIM. PARTRIDGE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE LETTER WHICH HAS NOW APPEARED IN THE CITIZEN IN SALISBURY. PARTRIDGE ALSO UNDERSTANDS THE LETTER HAS BEEN REPRODUCED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS. HE ASSURED ME THAT THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PREPARATION OR DISTRIBUTION OF THE ZEIF LETTER.

3. IT APPEARS TO ME THAT RELEASE OF THE LETTER TO THE PRESS IS A PART OF THE CONTINUING WAR OF NERVES BETWEEN THE NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS. BOTH BISHOP MUZOREWA'S AND SITHOLE'S DELEGATIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN CAPABLE OF SURFACING THE DOCUMENT.

4. COMMENT: THE LETTER IS ADDRESSED TO DR. JOSEPH TADERERA WHO UNTIL LATE 1975, WHEN HE RETURNED TO MOZAMBIQUE, WAS INVOLVED IN CANCER RESEARCH AT THE SLOANE-KETTERING INSTITUTE IN NEW YORK. HE IS NOW A MEMBER OF ZIPA AND DELEGATE TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. AL BLAUSTEIN, A LAW PROFESSOR OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF TADERERA
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AND HAS DISCUSSED TADERERA'S POSSIBLE ROLE IN THE FUTURE OF THE ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT WITH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. BLAUSTEIN WAS ASSISTING TADERERA IN ORGANIZING A LEGAL DEFENSE FUND FOR ZANU DEFENSE CHIEF JOSIAH TONGOGARA, RECENTLY RELEASED FROM DETENTION IN ZAMBIA. BLAUSTEIN HAS SAID IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH DEPT OFFICERS THAT HE IN NO WAY SUPPORTS MUGABE WHOM HE REGARDS AS AN IRRESPONSIBLE RADICAL WHOSE COMING TO POWER IN ZIMBABWE WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO US INTERESTS. HE HAS ATTEMPTED TO PROMOTE TADERERA AS A MORE MODERATE ALTERNATIVE, HE BELIEVES, TO MUGABE'S LEADERSHIP OF ZANU, AND THE LETTER FROM ZEIF SHOULD BE INTERPRETED IN THAT LIGHT. BLAUSTEIN HAS TRIED UNSUCCESSFUL ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO BECOME THE DEPT'S SEMI-OFFICIAL LIAISON WITH TADERERA. CATTO
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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